

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7953

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 0347

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, KS, JA

SUBJECT: ROK-JAPAN RELATIONS

REF: SEOUL 231

1. GEF DISCUSSION WITH POLITICAL COUNSELOR JANUARY 17, KIM CHI-IN, SECRETARY GENERAL OF SEOUL SIDE OF ROK-JAPAN COOPERATION COMMITTEE, SAW NO MAJOR OBSTACLES TO NORMALIZATION OF BILATERAL RELATIONS.

2. ON QUESTION OF TWO JAPANESE STUDENTS ARRESTED UNDER EMERGENCY MEASURES, KIM SAID THAT THEY WOULD PROBABLY BE RELEASED SOME TIME IN MARCH. HE SAID THAT ROKG FULLY AWARE THAT IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE TO OBTAIN ANY GUARANTEE THAT ONCE FREED THE STUDENTS WOULD NOT CRITICIZE PARK GOVERNMENT. INSTEAD, STUDENTS WILL BE FREED ON BASIS OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN TWO SIDES THAT JAPAN WOULD "BE RESPONSIBLE" FOR THEIR SUBSEQUENT ACTIONS.

3. KIM SAID THAT KIM TAE-CHUNG CASE IS NO LONGER A REAL POLITICAL ISSUE BETWEEN TWO SIDES, ALTHOUGH JAPANESE POLICE STILL RANKLED OVER KIDNAPPING AND WHAT THEY BELIEVE TO BE INSUFFICIENT PUNISHMENT
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OF THOSE INVOLVED.

4. ON REPORTED PLANS BY JAPANESE FIRMS TO SELL
DIVING EQUIPMENT AND OTHER ITEMS OF MILITARY
SIGNIFICANCE TO NORTH KOREA, KIM SAID JAPANESE SIDE
AT JANUARY 13 COOPERATION COMMITTEE MEETING AGREED
TO DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO PREVENT SUCH SALES.

5. KIM SAID THAT ROK-JAPAN MINISTERIAL MEETING
WOULD PROBABLY BE HELD IN MAY.

6. BOTH AMBASSADOR USHIROKU AND VICE MINISTER
LO, IN SEPARATE CONVERSATIONS WITH AMBASSADOR,
AGREED ATMOSPHERICS OF KISHI GROUP VISIT WENT VERY
WELL. USHIROKU ADDED THAT MEETING WITH PRESIDENT
PARK DEVOTED LARGELY TO SOCIAL PLEASANTRIES.
KISHI DID NOT RAISE STUDENT PROBLEM, BUT PRESIDENT PARK
URGED AGAINST SALE OF DIVING EQUIPMENT AND GLIDERS
WHICH KISHI AGREED TO LOOK INTO AND TRY TO BE HELPFUL.
LO, HOWEVER, EXPRESSED DOUBT ABOUT KISHI'S INFLUENCE.
AMBASSADOR POINTED TO KISHI'S LINK TO NEW CABINET,
PARTICULARLY FUKUDA.
SNEIDER

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